

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-20 have been rejected

Claims 5 and 11 were objected to as containing allowable subject matter, but depending from a rejected base claim.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previous dependent claims 3 and 5, correspondingly the subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Independent claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of previous dependent claims 9 and 11, corresponding the subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Similar additional limitations have been added to independent claim 13. As such, these three independent claims are all believed to be allowable as amended.

New limitations were added to dependent claims 3, 5, 9, and 11, and these claims each depended from an allowable independent claim, so they are believed allowable as well.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,633 to Prater ("Prater"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In light of the amendments above, these rejections are believed to be moot, and are traversed.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 1-20.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request full allowance of the claims.

SUMMARY

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK BUTRUS P.C.

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